

**From:** aridley@corrado.co.uk@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 10:42am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir,

I write to you from the UK to express my views on the Microsoft Settlement. I do not doubt that you will have received much correspondence on this matter and realise the enormous responsibility it carries.

I work as a computer engineer and in truth probably owe my career to Microsoft (indeed I am a Microsoft Certified System Engineer), they have brought great advances in computing and made it accessible to those who may previously have stayed away from it. This however does not mean that how they achieved this is right or that other companies would not have achieved the same thing in the absence of Microsoft.

Given the amount of time that has elapsed since the original case and the pace of technology it is important to consider that any settlement based on the past will not impact the present or the future, and therefore ultimately will not bother Microsoft let alone prevent them from repeating such behaviour. As such any settlement must have an impact on present and future Microsoft business practices, and must leave no doubt in Microsoft's mind, or any other business that contemplates the same, that big business is above the law. Competing business' should now be given the opportunity of a level playing field against Microsoft products at the expense of Microsoft and its proprietary technology. Since this is the core of Microsoft's monopoly position and its strength, it is only fair that this should suffer in order to restore the balance. Microsoft is large enough to survive this event and it may give them pause to look to the quality of their products once more since users would then really have alternatives to turn to (this is particularly relevant given Mr. Gates recent memo to the company regarding the security of their products, an area that has been seriously under developed in recently times at the expense of Microsoft customers).

I have been following the media coverage of the case with great interest and find that the settlement agreed with Microsoft will have little or no effect on the company, stronger measures must be taken to punish the guilty and right the wrongs, the settlement proposed by the breakaway states is a very good start towards bringing this case to an effective resolution.

Regards

Ash Ridley, MCSE.

The comments above are the persons own opinions and do not reflect the opinions or views of the company.

